

CLAIMS

1.

A messenger system for storing and transferring a file using an Internet messenger, the messenger system including a messenger server and a plurality of messenger clients connected to the messenger server for exchanging a message or file with the messenger server, comprising:

a messenger function-performing file storage unit connected to the messenger server,

10 wherein the messenger function-performing file storage unit comprises:

a messenger function-performing unit for receiving a file, which will be transferred from a user of a messenger client serving as a sender to a user of a messenger client serving as a recipient among the plurality of the messenger clients, and transmitting the received file to the user of the messenger client serving as the recipient;

15 a file storage unit for storing the file received through the messenger function-performing unit therein; and

a control unit for controlling storing the file received through the messenger function-performing unit in the file storage unit and transferring the file stored in the file storage unit to a user of a messenger client serving as a recipient when the user of the messenger client serving as the recipient accepts the receipt of the file.

2.

A messenger system for storing and transferring a file using an Internet messenger, the messenger system including a messenger server and a plurality of messenger clients connected to the messenger server for exchanging a message or file with the messenger server, comprising:

a messenger function-performing file storage unit connected to the messenger server,

30 wherein the messenger function-performing file storage unit comprises:

a messenger function-performing unit for receiving a file that a user of any one of th

e plurality of the messenger clients wishes to store and transmitting the received file to a user of the messenger client;

a file storage unit for storing the file received through the messenger function-performing unit therein; and

5 a control unit for controlling storing the file received through the messenger function-performing unit in the file storage unit and transferring the file stored in the file storage unit to a user of the messenger client through the messenger function-performing unit when there is a request from the user of the messenger client.

10 3.

The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a firewall is installed between the messenger server and the messenger client serving as the sender or between the messenger server and the messenger client serving as the recipient, and

15 a web interface for connecting the messenger client and the messenger function-performing file storage unit through the firewall is further provided between the firewall and the messenger function-performing file storage unit, whereby the user of the messenger client can receive or store the file that is being stored in the file storage unit using a web browser

20 4.

The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the file storage unit is a storage system provided on the Internet.

5.

25 The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein at least one of the plurality of the messenger clients has a plug-in program installed, and

the messenger function-performing file storage unit further comprises a file transmission/reception-executing unit that allows the messenger client having the plug-in program installed in and the messenger function-performing file storage unit to exchange a file directly through the plug-in program.

6.

A method for storing/transferring a file in/to a messenger system including a messenger server, a plurality of transmission/reception messenger clients connected to the messenger server for exchanging a message or file with the messenger server, and a messenger function-performing file storage unit connected to the messenger server and having a messenger function and a file storage function, comprising the steps of:

allowing the messenger function-performing file storage unit to receive a file, which is to be transferred from a user of a messenger client serving as a sender to a user of a messenger client serving as a recipient among the plurality of the messenger clients, through the messenger function and then to store the file therein through the file storage function; and

transferring a file stored in the messenger function-performing file storage unit to a user of a messenger client serving as a recipient through the messenger function when the user of the messenger client serving as the recipient accepts the receipt of the file.

7.

A method for storing/transferring a file in/to a messenger system including a messenger server, a plurality of transmission/reception messenger clients connected to the messenger server for exchanging a message or file with the messenger server, and a messenger function-performing file storage unit connected to the messenger server and having a messenger function and a file storage function, comprising the steps of:

allowing the messenger function-performing file storage unit to receive a file that will be stored by a user of any one of the plurality of the messenger clients through the messenger function and then to store the file therein through the file storage function; and

transferring a file stored in the messenger function-performing file storage unit to a user of a messenger client through the messenger function when there is a request from the user of the messenger client.